

# THE Mount Washington Hotel

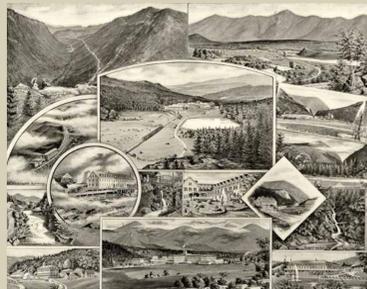


Mount Washington Hotel c. 1914 Library of Congress

## “Comfortable Quarters and a Good Table”... accommodating visitors to the White Mountains

The “rugged mountain tops, fearful chasms and beautiful intervals” of the White Mountains have beckoned visitors since the early 1800s. White Mountain innkeepers welcomed guests traveling on horseback, then stagecoach, in simple taverns and modest hotels.

When trains made the area generally accessible, the era of the Grand Hotels began. The Grand Hotels were large summer retreats frequented by wealthy city-dwellers and known for their luxurious amenities and extensive staff. During their heyday roughly two dozen of these fashionable hotels were spread throughout the White Mountains. Today, the Mount Washington is one of only a few remaining White Mountain Grand Hotels.



Nearby White Mountain tourist attractions and hotels (including the Mt. Pleasant House, Fabyan House, Crawford House and the Summit Houses)  
D.H. Hurd & Co., Town and City Atlas of the State of New Hampshire 1892

## “The Largest and the Grandest”

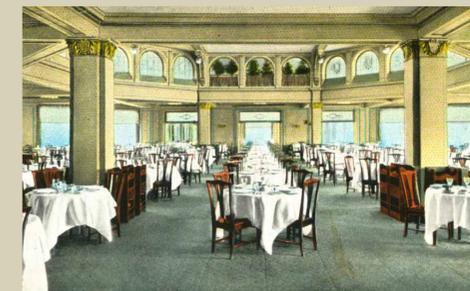


The Mount Pleasant Hotel, which was located near this location, with the Mount Washington Hotel in the background, ca. 1901-1907  
Museum of the White Mountains, Plymouth State University

The Mount Washington Hotel was one of the last constructed, the largest and the grandest of New Hampshire's grand hotels. It was the inspiration of Joseph Stickney (1840-1903), a New Hampshire native who had purchased and expanded the Mt. Pleasant House that stood near this location. But he had bigger dreams for the dramatic 10,000-acre site closer to the mountains. He chose New York architect Charles Ailing Gifford (1861-1937) to design an opulent, technically innovative, five-story hotel that could accommodate 600 guests. The doors opened on July 28, 1902 with a staff of 350 on hand to greet visitors.



Map showing hotels on the west side of Mt. Washington  
Charles Bingham Reynolds, “Washington, the Nation's Capital”, 1903



The Mount Washington Dining Room ca. 1915-1930  
Museum of the White Mountains, Plymouth State University

The hotel was almost entirely self-sufficient, with its own water, electrical, heating, telephone, laundry, and sewage systems; print shop, telegraph, and daily newspaper. Guests enjoyed the novel heated indoor swimming pool, Turkish baths, billiards, bowling, horse trails, golf course, and orchestral entertainment. In its heyday, the hotel's coach met 50 trains a day, ferrying such famous guests as Winston Churchill, Thomas Edison, and Babe Ruth. From the beginning, the Mount Washington catered to the increasing number of automobile owners, with a spacious garage and living quarters for chauffeurs.

*“nothing that genius could suggest or skilled craftsman execute has been omitted in this palatial edifice.”*

“Bugle of Bretton Woods,” 1902. This newspaper was written and printed at the Mount Washington Hotel.

**“A Modern Village of its own Establishment”**



September 4, 1910  
Dinner Menu and Concert Program at the Mount Washington  
Omni Mount Washington Hotel



Golfers playing on the hotel's Donald Ross-designed course  
Omni Mount Washington Hotel



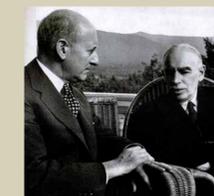
Postcard view of the Hemicycle  
Omni Mount Washington Hotel



Postcard view of the ballroom (right)  
Omni Mount Washington Hotel



Postcard view of the hotel's Porte Cochere  
Omni Mount Washington Hotel



Leaders of the Bretton Woods Conference. U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau, Jr. (left) and British Economist John Maynard Keynes Life Magazine July 17, 1944

## Bretton Woods Conference

During WW II the hotel achieved international fame as the site of the July 1944 Bretton Woods Conference, which planned funding for post-war reconstruction, mapped a new course for the world's monetary system, and sought ways to avert future global economic depressions. It resulted in the creation of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.



Bretton Woods Conference attendees in front of the hotel. Over 700 people representing forty-four countries came to the conference.  
Omni Mount Washington Hotel